

FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance and Instruction
VEHICLE AND AIRCRAFT WASH RACKS AND
PRIMARY WASTE WATER TREATMENT (OIL/WATER SEPARATORS)

1. Purpose and Scope:

To provide guidance on the application, usage, and maintenance of the oil/water separators, wash racks, and grit traps at the vehicle and aircraft wash racks. Each wash rack and oil/water separator has an owner's manual that provides site specific information and user guidelines. This guidance document is applicable to all units, activities, and agencies utilizing the oil/water separators.

2. Reference:

- a. Tennessee Code, Title 69, Chapter 3 - Water pollution Control.
- b. AR 200-1, Chapter 8, Tennessee Department of Health and Environment.
- c. Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Title 401, Chapter 5 - Water Quality Regulations 5 and 10 (401 KAR 5: 010).
- d. Chapter 40, Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR), Part 110.

3. Definitions: None

4. General:

An Oil/Water Separator is a primary wastewater treatment facility. The separators remove oil and grease contaminants from surface run-off prior to runoff's entrance to the sanitary sewer system. Wash activities should be conducted in properly designed areas such that the spent wash water flows through the drain inlets to the separators. In general, all spent wash water and oily wastewater from wash racks, service buildings, and floor drains must be captured and received by primary wastewater treatment in the oil/water separator prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system. An oil/water separator is not designed to directly accept used oil from vehicle maintenance oil changes. Dumping of JP-8 or other volatile products into oil/water separators or wash racks is prohibited.

a. Acceptable Activities for Wash Racks:

- 1) Final washing of vehicle/equipment - primary washing must first be completed at the CVWFs.
- 2) Washing of other equipment is also allowed provided that they are not contaminated with pollutants. (Pollutants like heavy mud, oil, petroleum products, sediments or any other pollutant that would cause discharge problems to the Sewage Treatment Plant.)
- 3) Hoses used for washing must be equipped with nozzles to reduce the volume of water being used for washing and to allow the oil/water separator to function properly.
- 4) Steam cleaning of equipment is acceptable.
- 5) Use of biodegradable soaps is allowed. If there are any questions about the use of soaps, please call PWBC, Environmental Division at 9601/9598.

b. Unacceptable Activities for Wash Racks:

- 1) Dumping of pollutants on wash racks.
- 2) Purging of fuel tankers, fuel pods and fuel cans.
- 3) Purging or cleaning of fuel pods without purging request from PWBC Environmental.

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- 4) Primary washing of vehicles is strictly prohibited. This activity is carried out at the CVWFs.
- 5) The use of the wash rack area to store POL, hazardous waste/material, and other POL products is prohibited.
- 6) Parking or washing of vehicles that are leaking oil/fuel are not allowed on wash racks.
- 7) Draining of oil cans, filters, containers, drums, etc. on the wash rack area.
- 8) Washing outside the wash rack area.
- 9) Use of wash rack when spent wash water is by-passing the oil/water separator.
- 10) Use of wash rack when hoses are not equipped with nozzles.
- 11) Use of wash racks when hoses and hydrants are leaking.

5. Responsibilities:

The Unit EQO is responsible for ensuring that the following occurs:

- a. All primary washing of vehicles and equipment that are lightly to heavily soiled with mud will be at the CVWFs, 95% of the mud and grit can be removed at the CVWFs. Soaps, cleaners, and detergents are prohibited. Vehicles heavily contaminated with oil/petroleum must be wiped clean of contaminants as much as possible prior to the primary washing at the CVWFs. In addition, vehicles leaking oil/petroleum products should be repaired and wiped clean of oil/petroleum prior to the primary washing. Washing of heavily oil/petroleum contaminated vehicles or vehicles leaking oil/petroleum products are prohibited unless the above procedures are followed.
- b. Final washing of vehicles and equipment are allowed at approved motor pool wash facilities after primary washing at the CVWFs. The remaining 5% of the mud and grit as well as the use of soaps if used sparingly is considered acceptable at these facilities. (See authorized list of approved wash facilities - Attachment A).
- c. Designated individuals are scheduled to receive training in the use of these facilities.
- d. That Unit/PWBC Responsibilities Form should be kept up to date as personnel and/or job duties change. This form will serve as a permit for the unit owner to operate the oil/water separator.
- e. Do not use wash rack when spent wash water by-passes the oil/water separator.
- f. Do not wash outside the wash rack area.
- g. Inspections of the facility every work week, after heavy rainfall, and after wash rack use from maneuvers.
- h. Covers are in place and locked.
- i. Gratings are secure and in place.
- j. All visual observations must be recorded on the Inspection Form for Wash Racks and Oil/Water separators (See attachment B).

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6. Instructions:

Free oil rises to the water surface in a separator if it is left undisturbed for a short time. No waste oil, fuel, hydraulic fluid, or antifreeze will be dumped on the wash racks or the separators. Gravity separation is used to move free oil to the surface of the water in the separator for subsequent skimming and removal.

a. Hazards:

- 1) Health and Safety: Operation and maintenance of oil/water separators expose personnel to chemical hazards, physical hazards, confined space hazards, and flammability and explosive hazards. There is only a minor exposure to these hazards during routine monitoring and inspections which can be conducted from above ground at ground level.
- 2) Chemical Hazards: Gasoline, diesel, waste oil, jet fuels, and possibly various solvents are contaminants potentially encountered during field inspection tasks of oil/water separators. Exposure to large quantities of these contaminants in air is not expected; however, floating petroleum oil lubricants POLs will be present in the oil/water separator system.
- 3) Flammability and Explosive Hazards: Flammability is a primary hazard associated with petroleum products.
- 4) Safety Procedures: Under no circumstances are unit/owner personnel to enter these spaces. NO SMOKING is permitted. In addition, no open flame is to be used and extreme care should be exercised to prevent striking up sparks around oil/water separators. In the event that the separator exhibits a strong odor of any flammable material it is strongly recommended that the PWBC Environmental Division be contacted for appropriate action.

b. Maintenance: To obtain a copy of the management plan for Wash Racks and O/W Separators, call PWBC- Environmental compliance branch for information on the following:

- 1) Contract cleaning
- 2) PWBC-Environmental cleaning
- 3) DRMO-contract cleaning

c. Inspections: See Owners Manual, and Inspection Check List (Attachment B).

7. Additional Guidance:

- a. For site specific O&M manuals and additional or other detailed information PWBC Environmental Division, 798-9641 / 9639 / 9598
- b. For future reference, place this document behind *Tab Number 20* in your Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook.